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BALDOCK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 9

Baldock Urban District Council,
Council Offices,
High Street,
BALDOCK,
Herts.

(Telephone: Baldock 3221/4)

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B A L D O C K
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

MEMBERS AS AT 31st. DECEMBER 1969

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:

O. Hoeg

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

Dr. N. Burgess.

COUNCILLORS:

J. H. Barton

G. A. York

W.J. Ellis

R. L. Thomas

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

J.D. HALL, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.) D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

B.G. WILLIS, M.A.P.H.I.

P R E F A C E

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Baldock.

To the Chairman and Members of Baldock Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1969.

The population of Baldock showed an overall increase of 140 in 1969 as against a decrease of 70 the previous year.

The infant mortality rate was higher than last year and rather higher than the remainder of the county and the country as a whole, although the perinatal rate was somewhat lower. The increase is not statistically significant. No maternal deaths occurred.

The number of deaths from all causes decreased slightly in 1969, the commonest cause of death remaining disease of the heart and blood vessels. The rates are still somewhat higher than those for the remainder of the division and the county as a whole.

No outbreak of serious epidemic disease occurred during the year and the state of public health in Baldock continues to be satisfactory.

I would like to express my thanks to the public health, health and welfare staff in Baldock, including those concerned with the administration for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL

Medical Officer of Health

Divisional Health Office,
Bedford Road,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Telephone No: Hitchin 50411

SECTION "A"

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)		542
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population Mid - 1969		6,890
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1969..		1,998
Rateable Value		£346,949
Net product of 1d. rate		..£1,400

BALDOCK VITAL STATISTICS 1969

	Males	Females	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>			
<u>Total</u>	49	43	92
Legitimate	46	38	84
Illegitimate	3	5	8
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	13.4
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	14.2
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	9.0
<u>STILL-BIRTHS:</u>			
<u>Total</u>	1	-	1
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	11.0
Total live and still-births	50	43	93
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE</u>			
<u>Total</u>	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	33.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	24.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	1.25
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	22.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	11.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still- births)	-	-	22.0
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</u>			
Number of deaths	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	0.0
<u>TOTAL DEATHS:</u>	33	32	65
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	9.4
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	13.1
Natural increase in population			27
Overall increase of population			140

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1969
IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BALDOCK

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total	Under 4	4 weeks	A. G. E. I N Y E A R S										75
		all ages	4 weeks	under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	and over		
B5 TUBERCULOSIS OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	-		
B19(1) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BUCCAL CAVITY ETC.	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	-	-	1 -		
B19(3) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	M F	3 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 1	-		
B19(6) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS	M F	3 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	1 -	1 -		
B19(7) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BREAST	M F	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	-	-	-		
B19(11) OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	M F	3 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	1 1	1 -	1 1		
B21 DIABETES MELLITUS	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	-	-	-		
B46(4) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM, etc.	M F	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -		
B27 HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE	M F	1 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 -	-	-	-		
B28 ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	M F	10 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 1	1 -	1 2	5 3		
B29 OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	M F	1 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 3		
B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	M F	3 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	2 3		
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	M	27 22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 5	3 1	8 5	11 12		

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	A G E I N Y E A R S										75 and over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	M	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	8	11	
	F	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	5	12	
B46(5) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
B31 INFLUENZA	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
B32 PNEUMONIA	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B33(1) BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B42 CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
BE49 SUICIDE AND SELF- INFLECTED INJURIES	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F														
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	33	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	10	12		
	F	32	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	3	2	7	14		

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1969 Baldock	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire	England and Wales
Population	6,890	157,870	903,390	48,826,800
Live Births (Crude)	13.4	18.3	15.8	16.3
Live Births (Corrected)	14.2	-	14.9	16.3
Death Rate - All causes Crude	9.4	8.3	9.1	11.9
Death Rate - All causes Corrected	13.1		10.4	11.9
Infective and Parasitic Diseases - excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphilllis and other V.D.	0.00	0.05		*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.14	0.01	} - 0.03	0.01
Other Forms	0.00	0.00		0.01
All Forms	0.14	0.01		*
Cancer:				
Lung and Bronchus	0.43	0.53	} - 1.95	0.20
Other	1.88	1.37		1.90
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	0.14	0.06	1.32	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	4.64	4.07	2.17	*
Respiratory Diseases	0.87	0.91	1.27	*
Maternal Mortality	0.00	0.34	0.07	0.19
Infantile Mortality	33.0	18.0	13.6	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality	22.0	12.1	10.0	12.4
Early Neonatal Mortality	11.0	10.3	9.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality	22.0	20.2	20.0	23.0
Stillbirths	10.7	9.9	10.9	13.0

*Figures not available

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1969

In any discussion on vital statistics it should be remembered that the population of each separate district of North Hertfordshire represents a relatively small basis for comparative purposes. Population of the North Hertfordshire Division, however, which exceeds 150,000 may be considered sufficiently large for valid statistical deductions to be made, and for this purpose the table giving the overall picture of the vital statistics also includes similar statistics for the Division as a whole for comparison with each individual district.

Briefly, from a divisional point of view all the rates may be considered satisfactory. The infant mortality rate slightly exceeds the remainder of Hertfordshire but not England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate was higher than for the remainder of the county and the country, and the population of the Division increased during 1969 by 3,320, natural increase being 1,567. The continually increasing size of the Division, therefore, can be seen to be due to migration into the area rather than to any other factor.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>			
Total	1,458	1,432	2,890
Legitimate	1,362	1,321	2,683
Illegitimate	96	111	207
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	18.3
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	-
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	7.2
<u>STILL-BIRTHS:</u>			
Total	16	13	29
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	10.0
Total live and still-births	1,474	1,445	2,919
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:</u>			
Total	27	25	52
Legitimate	25	21	46
Illegitimate	2	4	6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	17.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	15.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	2.07
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).	-	-	12.1
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	10.3
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	20.2
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</u>			
Number of deaths	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	0.34
<u>TOTAL DEATHS:</u>	676	647	1,323
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	8.4
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	- *
Natural increase of population	-	-	1,567
Overall increase of population	-	-	3,320

SECTION "B" BALDOCK

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Care of Mothers and Young Children - Section 22 - Baldock.

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

Attendance decreased by 97 during 1969. Ante natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation exercises but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

Attendance:

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>No. of attendances 1969</u>
Baldock	171

Family Planning Clinic

Family planning in the division is provided by the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, and I am most grateful to the Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs. K. Arger, both for the provisions she has made and for this report.

Sessions

Hitchin, Bedford Road - Tuesday afternoon (Double Doctor Session)
Wednesday evening (Double Doctor Session)
Thursday morning (Single Doctor Session)

The training of doctors and nurses in family planning methods is carried out in this clinic. An I.U.D. session is also included.

Three hundred and eighteen new patients attended during the year and a total of 3,168 patients attended. The highest number of new patients was in the age group 20-24, with those aged 25-29 a close second.

187 doctor sessions were held for General Birth Control and 39 I.U.D. sessions. Oral contraception was the most used method.

Letchworth, Nevells Road, Health Centre. - Monday evening
(Single doctor session)

208 new patients attended during the year and a total of 1,383 patients attended.

The highest number of new patients came within the same age groups as the Hitchin and Stevenage clinics.

Stevenage Family Centre - Tuesday afternoon (Treble Doctor Session)
 Wednesday morning (Treble Doctor Session)
 Thursday evening (Treble Doctor Session)
 Friday morning (Treble Doctor Session)

Doctors and nurses are also trained at the Stevenage Family Planning Clinic. No I.U.D. sessions are held.

Nine hundred and thirty one new patients attended during the year and a total of 8,168 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method. Again the highest number of new patients was in the age group 20-24, with those aged 25-29 a close second.

532 doctor sessions were held for General Birth Control.

At all clinics cervical cytology smears were taken routinely, the numbers being:-

Hitchin	-	575	none positive
Stevenage	-	973	one positive
Letchworth-		260	none positive

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Centre,
 Pinnocks Lane, Baldock.

Wednesday 2-4p.m.
 Thursday 2-4p.m.

Dr. S. J. Moynihan
 Health Visitor

<u>Clinic</u>	Children Born in <u>1969</u>	Children Born in <u>1968</u>	Children Born in <u>1964 - 1967</u>	<u>No. of attendances</u>
Baldock	110	98	220	3,277

Child Health Assessment Unit

Attendances at this unit so far as follows:-

Children born in	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965 and over.
Baldock	1	3	-	-	-

Premature Infants.

A premature infant is one which weighs 5½lb or less at birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1969

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			Died under 28 days				Nb. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Nb. removed to Hosp. after birth	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Born at Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
Baldock	1	1 twins 5	7	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	5	6

8 illegitimate births were notified by the Registrar General during 1969.

Day Nurseries - North Herts.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Nb. on Register</u>
1. Children of widows or widowers.	1
2. Children of unmarried mothers.	12
3. Children of deserted wives or husbands.	20
4. Children of parents in prison.	Nil.
5. Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement.	1
6. Temporary Cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement.	3
7. Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help.	2
8. Children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories, for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required).	2
9. Children living in bad housing conditions.	Nil.
10. Children of families where there was a risk of break-up in family.	Nil

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December, 1969 was 41.

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

Ante Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual anti-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P.'s surgery or in the home.

The development of the domiciliary midwifery service to include hospital deliveries has not advanced during the year.

Guthrie Testing for Phenylketonuria

From the 1st October 1969 the laboratory work involved in screening infants born in this area for phenylketonuria by the Guthrie Test was taken over by the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The Guthrie blood test has replaced phenistix-testing, and the midwives are now responsible for collection of blood samples.

The County Council's policy, with the decline in birth rate and of domiciliary confinements, to appoint district nurse/midwives continued during 1969.

All midwives are authorised to use their private motor cars on official business and the County Council, in common with other local authorities, operate an assisted car-purchase scheme for staff classified as "essential users."

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - BALDOCK.

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers.	409
Home Conditions Reports for Hospital	29
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	-
Deliveries - Home	43
Deliveries - Hospital	55
Total - Live and Stillbirths	88
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	6

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24 - BALDOCK

Two health visitors were employed during 1969

Child Welfare	Visits	2,094
Aged	"	359
Others	"	132
School Inspections	Sessions	70
Maternity and Child Welfare	Sessions	190

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25

The staff of the home nursing service in Baldock at 31st December, 1969 consisted of one part-time district nurse; two full time district nurse/midwives and two part-time district nurse/midwives. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1969. It will be seen that they made 6,745 visits to 201 patients; 48 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 4,832 occasions; 52 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Nb. of cases attended</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Medical	148	5174
Surgical	38	1513
Tuberculosis	1	1
Others	14	57
TOTALS	201	6745
Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	96	4832
Children included above who were under 5 or less	12	35

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION - SECTION 26

In view of the introduction of the use of the computer no details of vaccination and immunisation figures are included in this report.

It is of interest to note, however, that in the first completed year of measles vaccination only 5.6 per cent of the population have required to be vaccinated.

AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27

Number of patients conveyed	66,783
Number of Journeys	30,890
Total Mileage	441,483

Details of Journeys

Accidents	1,752
Sudden Illness	704
Removals	63,558
Maternity	769

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetman, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE - SECTION 28

NORTH HERTS.

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delegated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and those organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service we should like to express our thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting:

Tuberculosis Households - Visits	321
B.C.G. Follow-up-Visits	55
Contacts - Visits	205
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	98

New Cases

Immigrants	5
Others	25
Contacts of New Cases	181
Heaf Negative	84
B.C.G. Vaccination	77

The figures reveal no significant change in incidence of tuberculosis during 1969.

VENEREAL DISEASES

NORTH HERTS

<u>SPECIAL CLINIC</u>	<u>Number of New Cases in '69</u>				Other Venereal Conditions
	Total All Venereal Conditions	Primary & Secondary	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	43	Nil	Nil	5	38
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	233	1	4	48	180
TOTAL	276	1	4	53	218

VENEREAL DISEASES contd.

All venereal conditions increased by 11 per cent in 1969.

It should be noted that a 13 per cent increase over the previous year was reported in 1968 and 1969 reveals an additional increase of 11 per cent. If to those local statistics the unknown number of cases attending Special Clinics elsewhere is added, the situation is not one which should be viewed with complacency. The increase in V.D. in young people is the responsibility of the whole community and its remedy is not wholly within the field of medicine.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY - NORTH HANTS

CLINICS	No. 1st Attendances	% Pop. at risk attending	Negative	Positive	Unsatisfactory Specimens	Inflammatory Changes	Trichomonas Vaginalis	Monilia	Suspicious	Cell Irregularities
HITCHIN	336	- 1) 3 11) 4	No. 297 % 88.4	No. - % -	No. 4 % 1.19	No. 115 % 34.2	No. 20 % 5.95	No. 5 % 1.48	No. - % -	No. - % -
LETCHWORTH	337	1) 3 11) 3	173 51.33	- -	- -	41 12.16	9 2.67	1 0.29	- -	- -
STEVENAGE	621	1) 8 11) 11	548 88.24	- -	2 0.32	137 22.06	14 2.25	10 1.61	- -	- -
ROYSTON	133	1) 0.53 11) 2	122 91.7	- -	1 0.75	105 78.9	10 7.5	- -	- -	- -

CYTOLOGY CLINIC "WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1969

Hitchin Every Wednesday a.m.
 Letchworth 1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.
 Stevenage Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.
 Royston Every third Wednesday in the month a.m.

In 1969 attendances at the CytoLOGY Clinics showed a slight increase at Letchworth but were lower at Stevenage and Hitchin than in 1968. The Royston clinic, started in September 1968 continued satisfactorily although attendances did not warrant holding an extra session. This continues to give cause for concern and perhaps a publicity campaign during the coming year would renew public interest in these clinics.

From a total of 1,427 no positives were discovered.

Cervical Cytology continued:-

- (i) Aged 20 and over
- (ii) Aged 30 and over

Population At Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient.

Baldock U.D.	(i) 2,080	Royston U.D.	(i) 2,260
	(ii) 1,740		(ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	(i) 9,540	Stevenage U.D.	(i) 16,200
	(ii) 7,900		(ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	(i) 9,480	Hitchin R.D.	(i) 8,560
	(ii) 7,950		(ii) 7,200
TOTAL AT RISK		(i)	48,120
		(ii)	39,000

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order or in emergency on an Order signed by two Medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1969.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTIONS 21 - 36:

During 1969 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued - the waiting list being nine men and forty eight women. The position will not be eased by Governmental restrictions on new buildings, and the situation has worsened.

BLIND WELFARE

NORTH HERTS

The number of blind persons on the register at 31st December 1969 was 240 and of partially sighted 117.

Patients were visited at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wireless, talking books, holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc., were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1959 - SECTIONS 25 and 29

During 1969, 83 patients were admitted to mental hospitals on Compulsory Orders and 22 were admitted on an informal basis.

The Social Workers dealt with 549 mental health cases during 1969.

TRAINING CENTRES

Junior Training Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.

Special Care Unit	12
General Unit	43
Nursery	14
TOTAL	55

Adult Training Centre, Leyden Road, Stevenage.

Trainees on roll 1st January 1969	43
Trainees on roll 31st December 1969	61
10 Males)	
16 Females)	joined the Centre during 1969
1 Male)	
7 Females)	left the Centre during 1969

A hairdressing salon was opened at the training centre during 1969 with great success.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - SECTION 29

Number of Home Helps employed at 31.12.69	75
Number of Good Neighbours employed at 31.12.69	14

Mrs. J. Williams commenced August 1969 as full-time Clerk to the Home Help Service and Mrs. J. Hussey became a part-time Clerk in the Service working 20 hours per week.

Night Sitter Service

Approval was given by the Social Welfare Sub-Committee on 8th September 1969 for Night Sitters to be paid at the same rate as home helps, (at present 5/5³/₄d. per hour) for a maximum of 4 nights per week and the householder to receive a maximum of 2 nights per week unless there are special circumstances.

This is a much more realistic rate of pay than the former 15/- per night and it has enabled a register of Night Sitters to be set up in the division, who are available at 24 hours notice. The Service has been used twice and one case is continuing in Stevenage at the present time.

GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

	No. of Cases	No. of hours given
1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	64	1,489
2. Chronic sick		
(a) Aged 65 plus	468 }	50,034
(b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	35 }	
3. Others:	103	7,000
Including:		
(a) Mental Health		
(b) Blind		
(c) Miscellaneous		
Acute cases		
Accidents		
TOTAL	670	58,523

69 per cent of cases in 1969 were over 65 and 85 per cent total hours was given to this age group. 9 per cent cases were maternity absorbing only 2 per cent total hours.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The school health service has undergone a certain amount of streamlining, and a selective medical system has now been introduced and satisfactorily established in this division. This system has not in any way reduced the scale of the school health service but channelled it into dealing in a different way with problems as they arise.

It is now possible for the headteachers to have specific consultation sessions with their school medical officer apart from routine medical examination periods. This extension of the service should be encouraged since it will promote a closer understanding of each others problems between the schools and the school health service. Those arrangements have also greatly facilitated the discussion of problems as they arise.

Dr. F. E. Woodthorpe - School Medical Officer reports:

1. Cleanliness: On the whole I found the standard of cleanliness quite high, there were the odd few children who appeared in rather grey underclothes.
2. Teeth I have seen only few cases of dental caries, and most of these seem to be having dental treatment.
3. Skin: Seen very few plantar warts, the health visitors seem to deal with this problem very adequately. There are plenty of cases of eczema of hands, face, elbows, knees and I have seen about two cases of ichthyosis.
4. Warts: These seem to be quite common on the hands and more frequently in the boys, and also seem to occur in all age groups.
5. Eyes: Defects of vision seem to be very common between the ages of 9 - 13 years. Have picked up several cases of colour blindness again more so in the boys.
6. Hearing: Audiology clinics and general ear testing proves quite invaluable in school health work.
7. Nose & Throat: Nasal catarrh seems to be very common. There are also plenty of enlarged tonsils to be seen and mouth breathers around the junior schools.
8. Development: There seems to be a lot of overweight children. The breakfasts of the juniors seems to be starchy cereals. The boys and girls of the Grammar and Secondary schools all seem on the whole to be tall and of big build.

School Health Service continued:-

9. Feet: Have seen very few corns or callosities.
10. Stability: With very few exceptions the children seem to be very happy at school, and a great many seem to prefer school to being at home. With mothers and fathers out at work home seems to be a shelter for eating and sleeping. The great majority of the teenagers seem to have very little in the way of hobbies at home, but this may be due to the pressure of school work for future examinations.
11. Abdomen: Except for the cases of undescended testes in the boys I have not found any abnormal abdomens. I have also been rather amazed that the incidence of hernia has been so uncommon.

Dr. A. Derola - School Medical Officer reports:

1. Cleanliness: I find a high standard of personal hygiene among the children of 5-6 years old, with a few exceptions (children belonging to problem families).
2. Infestation: I have not seen any children with lice infestation. This is probably due to the thorough work of health visitors who inspect and exclude the children from school and see that treatment is carried out.
3. Teeth: High incidence of dental caries. Quite good attendance at dental clinics. It appears that fluoride is indicated. In cases of multiple caries, I advise parents to buy fluoride at local chemists (1 drop daily in a glass of water). This seems to have a beneficial effect.
4. Skin: Infantile eczema as in previous years. I have seen three cases of impetigo in the same school, but all were under treatment. One case of scabies (on hands and chest). Warts and athletes foot not infrequent. Occasional plantar warts.
5. Speech: Quite a number of school entrants with speech defects improve after the first school term and after about a year speech becomes normal. The true dyslalia case is not common.
6. Lymph Glands: I noticed palpable cervical lymph glands among school children. This was confined to certain schools only. I think it would be interesting to follow the pattern of distribution and cause of this seasonal (autumn and winter), symptomless, enlargement of cervical lymph glands.

School Health Service Continued:-

7. Lungs: I came across about 5 cases of cystic fibrosis, aged from 5 - 15, all being under constant medical supervision and treatment, and making satisfactory school progress.
8. Hernia: Low incidence of hernia.
9. Orthopaedic: I have seen one case of typical "kissing patellae" condition in a five year old girl. She attends surgical follow up clinic. ? awaiting operation at the age of 6/7 (Roebuck Infants).

One bilateral Perthe's disease in a boy of 5 years old under treatment. Wears bilateral calipers and is making satisfactory progress.

I have seen at least two children with spina bifida (all surgically treated) attending normal school.
10. Posture: Rare incidence or mal posture among 5 year olds.
11. I have noticed a high incidence of nocturnal enuresis. This causes great anxiety to parents and children.
12. A great number of overweight children among juniors and seniors mainly due to faulty diet and some due to compulsive eating.

TABLE 1 - BALDOCK.

Inspection School Children 1969

Entrants Nursery Children	96
Secondary Selective	25
Last-year Secondary Consultative	115
Number of special inspections	40
Number of re-inspections	62

Physical condition of Pupils inspected

Satisfactory	308
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I am happy to record that the divisional education officers and the school heads have shown a ready appreciation of the current difficulties.

School Health Service continued:-

TABLE II - BALDOCK

B.C.G Vaccination - 11, 12 and 13 years and older school children:

Number of children offered testing and vaccination	
if necessary	143
Number of acceptances	139
Percentage of acceptances	97.1%

Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Test:

Number tested	138
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Result of Test

Number positive	7
Number negative	127
Number not ascertained	3
Percentage positive	5%
Percentage negative	92%
Number vaccinated	127

Note: The percentage of acceptances is most satisfactory; no adverse re-actions to B.C.G vaccinations were reported during the year.

TABLE III - NORTH HERTS.

Audiometry

Number tested	380
Number with no loss	140

DETAILS OF EYE TESTING PROGRAMME

1969

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Nb.Schools entered</u>	<u>Nb.Sessions</u>	<u>Nb.Tested</u>	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>No.referred to school ophthalmic clinic</u>
Entrants	47	85	2,205	251	11.3%
8 - 11 yrs	24	121	7,070	246	3.4%
12 - 16 yrs	25	131	7,330	765	10.4%
TOTALS	96	337	16,605	1,262	7.6%
					.278

It will be seen from the above statistics that of the 16,605 children tested, 7.6% were found to have defects.

School Health Service continued:-

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C. G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr. C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician - and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Drs Roper and Gabriel have played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to them also.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addenbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

General Hospital Services

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin.

Lister Hospital, Hitchin.

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Mental Hospital

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Hitchin.

Maternity Hospital Services

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin.

Chest Clinic

Lister Hospital, Hitchin.

Laboratory Services.

Dr. A. T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Lewsey Road, Luton, Beds.

Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to Baldock is provided by the Lee Valley Water Company from deep wells to the south of the town.

The regular sampling of the water has shown it to be consistent both in quality and quantity. 184 bacteriological and 8 chemical samples taken during the year were all reported as conforming to the standards of purity suitable for public supply.

Direct piped supply is provided to all premises in the town, and there is no evidence of plumbo-solvency.

The average fluoride content is less than 0.02 parts per million.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The town is served by a main sewerage system, into which all but 3 premises are connected. Of these 3, 2 have septic tanks and the other a cesspool.

228 yards of 6" new sewer was laid during the year.

Stage 1 of the new sewerage scheme to replace inadequate and defective parts of the existing system received approval from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the latter part of the year, and it is hoped to advertise for tenders for the work early in 1970.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The whole of this work is carried out under the supervision of the Surveyor. The weekly collection has been maintained, and the refuse is disposed of by tipping. During the year the tip at Wymondley was closed and a new one was opened at Holwell in Hitchin R.D.

CEMETERY

Routine duties in connection with the preparation for interment in 31 grave spaces was carried out, and other work involved in maintaining good order and control.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following details are extracted from those supplied to H.M. Factory Inspectorate in the Annual Report, and show the work carried out during the year.

Registrations and General Inspections

	No. of premises registered during year	Total No. of reg. premises	No. of Inspections
Offices	-	13	5
Retail shops	2	46	12
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments, canteens	1	9	2
TOTALS	3	69	19

Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises 43
Total number of reported accidents Nil

PETROLEUM ACTS

Number of premises subjected to the Acts 13
Number of Licences granted 13
Visits and inspections 48
Total gallonage of petroleum spirit stored 44,750 gals.
Licence fees received £56.

The main duties concerned with petroleum consist of ensuring a minimal fire hazard, and the regulations governing petrol service stations have this as their prime concern. Control is exercised over pumps, tanks and buildings, as well as road tankers discharging into storage tanks. Tests are applied to underground storage tanks when necessary to ensure that leakage is not occurring.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA (other than dwellinghouses and food premises)

Number of inspections

Drainage and Sewerage 31
Water Supply and Sampling 19
Nuisances 84

Number of inspections continued

Game Licences	2
Pet Animals Act	4
Hairdressers and Barbers By-laws	5
Consumer Protection Act	7
Trade Descriptions Act	2

HOUSING

On the 31st. December, 1969 the number of applications on the Council's waiting list for housing accommodation was 130, being a decrease of 2 over the previous year's total of 132.

During 1969, 46 applications were registered, 24 applicants housed and 24 applications cancelled.

The number of private dwellings provided by new construction during the year was 11. No new dwellings were erected by the Council.

Development of the Brewery Site was commenced with the installation of the roads and sewers, and a total of 52 housing units is projected for commencement during 1970.

The last of the aluminium bungalows on the Tene Estate was vacated during the year, and with the removal of these, further land will be available for development for housing needs.

CARAVANS

The total number of caravans in the district at the end of 1969, remained at 96, stationed on the approved sites in Limekiln Lane.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

There are 5 houses in multiple occupation in the town, and no action was required under the regulations.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

The following inspections were carried out during the year:-

1. Number inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts	72
2. Number found to be unfit for human habitation	35
3. Number in which defects were remedied by owners	30
4. Number the subject of closing or demolition orders	Nil
5. Number of filthy or verminous houses	Nil

STANDARD GRANTS

One application for a standard grant was received, and a grant of £285 was paid.

FOOD HYGIENE

The types of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations are as follows:-

Butchers	5	Green grocers & Fruiterers	3
Cafe's & Snack Bars	7	Bakehouses	2
Bakers & Confectioners	4	Canteens	2
Fishmongers	3	Public Houses	15
Grocers & Provision		Off-Licences	2
Merchants	7	Food Warehouses	1

There are 17 premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, 5 for the preparation of meat products, and 6 dealers in milk.

There are no slaughterhouses or poultry processing premises in the district.

2qrs. 20lbs. of unsound food was surrendered for condemnation.

There were no food poisoning cases reported during the year.

It is not possible to give an accurate figure for inspections of food premises, as a continual watch is kept on these, especially those in the retail trade. Whilst routine full inspections are carried out, casual inspections also occur when visiting any shop at any time, and it is also customary to visit cafes and restaurants as an ordinary consumer, during which time anything contravening the food regulations will be noted for follow-up action, if immediate steps are not to be taken.

Complaints of unsound food being sold to the public are immediately followed by a visit to the premises concerned, and stocks of the suspect commodity are inspected to prevent any further chance of unsound food being sold. This can also be followed by requests to the County Council Weights and Measures Department for formal action to be taken, if the seriousness of the case warrants it.

SWIMMING POOL

The privately-owned open-air swimming pool has again been much appreciated by school-children from Baldock and the neighbouring area. The water is purified by a system of filtration, chlorination and aeration, which has produced consistently good results when sampled.

PADDLING POOL

This pool, situated in the Avenuo Park, has been used to a great extent by the younger-child, and the good weather during the summer allowed full use to be made of this amenity. Treatment of the water is carried out by the Department, and involves chlorination and algae prevention.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The following work was carried out during the year for rodent eradication:-

Total number of promises inspected following notification	295
Number infested by rats	180
Number infested by mice	15
Total number of promises inspected for reasons other than notification	19
Number infested by rats	6

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Routine inspections were made of 15 of the 27 factories, for the purpose of checking the sanitary accommodation only.

AIR POLLUTION

There are two industrial oil-fired boilers in the area, the chimneys of which are kept under observation, and from which minor nuisances have been observed on occasion. These nuisances have occurred as the result of mechanical failure and have soon been rectified.

Other minor cases of smoke nuisance have been rectified when informal action has been taken.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS

There are 4 registered scrap metal dealers in the town.

MARKETS

Baldock is a market town, holding a weekly market on the High Street Car Park. There are 30 pitches, occupied by various tradesmen, of which a percentage are subject to the Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966, and receive regular weekly inspections.

NOISE

Further readings of sound levels were taken in various parts of the town in the vicinity of industrial sites, but no nuisances were found.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Some action was necessary during the year which concerned a local factory making electric fires, which were insufficiently guarded . New guards were produced to conform with the Regulations, and the matter was resolved satisfactorily.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors was attended by the Public Health Inspector, during which much useful information was obtained, and where modern techniques were seen and studied.

